(b) Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 25.50 crores for construction of an Inland Water Cargo Terminal at Gaighat, Patna.

(c) Navigation from Patna is already taking place, though on a limited scale. From Patna inland navigation is possible upto Allahabad in the upstream and also upto Haldia in the downstream and further to Assam through inland waterways of Bangladesh under the protocol route.

Development of coastal shipping

2315. SHRI DIN A NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to develop and modernise coastal shipping on a large scale in the near future;

(b) if so, the various routes earmarked for it;

(c) the measures Government propose to take to decongest and ease the pressure off some high-density coastal routes; and

(d) whether there is any estimate of traffic and freight to be generated from coastal shipping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No Sir. However, it has since been decided by the Government to carry out a study on development of coastal shipping and Minor Ports.

(b) No particular routes are earmarked for development of coastal shipping.

(c) There are no congested and high-density coastal routes at present.

(d) No Sir.